

Scottish Government submission of 9 February 2024

PE2056/A: Introduce legislation allowing Scottish Ministers to intervene on the hire of public land

Please accept my apologies for providing a response to this petition at such a late date. There was a delay in this being passed to my officials for consideration.

I can advise you that this is not a matter that the Scottish Government can intervene in. Local and national government have committed to respecting each other's democratic mandates as part of the Verity House Agreement.

As long as they act lawfully, it is up to each democratically-elected council how it manages its day-to-day business and decision-making processes. Scottish Ministers have very little power to intervene and this is not a situation where they could do so. Ultimately, it is for locally elected representatives to make local decisions on how best to deliver services to their communities.

Once again, please accept my apologies for the delay in providing this response. I do hope, however this reply is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely

JOE FITZPATRICK MSP

**MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPOWERMENT AND
PLANNING**